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the size of at least a portion of the refractory metal oxide particles in the gelled tube and reducing the concentration of the refractory metal oxide particles in the gelled tube, is achieved.

**Please rewrite claim 39 as:**

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5 39. (twice amended) The process of claim 34, wherein the treatment reduces the size of at least a portion of the refractory metal oxide particles in the gelled tube, reduces the concentration of the refractory metal oxide particles in the gelled tube, or both reduces the size of at least a portion of the refractory metal oxide particles in the gelled tube and reduces the concentration of the refractory metal oxide particles in the gelled tube.

**Please cancel claim 40 without prejudice.**

**Please rewrite claim 42 as:**

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10 42. (twice amended) The process of claim 34, wherein the gelled tube includes chromia particles, wherein the gelled tube is subjected to a treatment with chlorine gas prior to the treatment with the one or more sulfur halides, and wherein the chlorine gas treatment performs at least one action selected from the group consisting of reducing the size of at least a portion of the chromia particles in the gelled tube and reducing the concentration of the chromia particles in the gelled tube.

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**Please cancel claim 43 without prejudice.**

## **REMARKS**

This Application is a continuation of U.S. Application 09/109,827 ('827), which included citations of prior art. Applicants note that separate citation of the same prior art is not required to obtain consideration of said art herein. M.P.E.P. § 2001.06 (b) last par.

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## **Claim Status**

Claims 1-10, 12-26, 28-39, 41-42, and 44 are currently pending.